

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Recent Developments at the LEK Pharmaceutical
and Research Plants, Ljubljana and Menges

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2. Dr. Wilhelm Koch had been managing director of the Menges plant during the Nazi regime.**** Later, he was captured by the Partisans and detained in a PW camp until the LEK management learned his whereabouts and obtained his release through the Ministry of the Interior. Koch returned to the Menges plant and agreed to work for two years at a salary of 5,000 dinars per month. [redacted] Koch is credited with having enlarged the facilities of the Menges LEK plant and improved the standards of its products. After two years, Koch was asked to remain with the plant at a salary of 8,000 dinars per month, a sum which would equal his monthly income as a surgeon.***** At the Menges plant, Koch works primarily on perfecting the production of various extracts, notably belladonna and "Filicis Maris", and research testing of drugs manufactured by the plant as well as drugs imported from abroad.
3. The purchasing officer for the LEK plants in Menges and Hrastnik is Alojz Indihar. Before the war, Indihar was employed as a criminal investigator. During the war he served with the anti-Communist Domobranci police, although he was a supporter of the Partisans and a member of the Liberation Front (OF). Indihar was imprisoned when his Communist affiliations were discovered. He owes his present position at LEK to Director Repic, whose sister, Ivanka Repic, a Communist, was given aid by Indihar during the war.*****
4. On 14 February 1949, the LEK plant in Ljubljana held a trade union meeting to elect a new administrative committee of the plant's union and all plant officials were required to attend. Included among the speakers were Milan

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Pristavec, president of the trade union, Cilka Debevc, tariff and competition official, and Marija Kovac, head of volunteer work and commander of the plant brigade. When Marija Adamic, sister of Director Repic, spoke on the accomplishments of the workers' supply service during 1948, there were loud protests from the workers until President Pristavec threatened to have the UDB bring the meeting to order. Janez Avsec, formerly employed as a law court warden with DAPS (State Transport Service) criticized the food rationing system saying that the workers were allocated rations inferior to those given to officials. A heated argument ensued on the subject of food and clothing allotments, until Director Repic intervened and urged the meeting to limit discussion to problems of plant production. Finally, candidates for the new trade union committee were announced. Less than one-fourth of the workers actually cast their votes, however, and most of the workers turned in unmarked ballots. Members of the new committee have the reputation of being loyal Communists and strict Party disciplinarians.

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